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MUKAH: The Barisan Nasional is going all out to retain the Balingian state seat which is formerly held by Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has visited the constituency twice since nomination day, keeping to his promise that he would return to help and support in the campaign.

He visited the Kampung Telian community here on Thursday and said the federal government had given an assurance that the construction of the RM19 million new premises for Sekolah Kebangsaan Telian would duly proceed.

Last week during nomination, the Umno deputy president asked Barisan Nasional youth and women campaigners to go to all nooks and corners of the constituency to woo the 13,366 voters to vote for the coalition candidate, Yussibnosh Balo.

He said the youth and women movements led by state BN Youth chief Datuk Fadillah Yusof and state BN Wanita chief Datuk Fatimah Abdullah should ensure BN retain the seat.

"You have your task and responsibility before you now.

"You all are to ensure the BN candidate Yussibnosh Balo not only wins but to win handsomely and outstandingly," he said when launching the BN Youth machinery or Armada BN comprising members from its 29 branches here, and in Balingian for the Balingian by-election at the town sports field here on March 17.

Muhyiddin added they should work as a team and should not be bogged down by any misunderstanding.

"Introduce our candidate

to all and sundry. He is a good candidate. If he wins, he can continue on with the fine legacy left behind by the former assemblyman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud who is now the Sarawak Head of State," he said.

"The people of Balingian should remember that when BN wins big in the by-election this time, we will bring bigger development to them," he said.

Muhyiddin added the by-election is very important for the people and one which should be won by the BN.

He said its outcome would determine their future and the future of Sarawak through its regional development corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE), the headquarters of which is centred here.

"We have many activities planned. They should be allowed to proceed without any interruption," he said.

Earlier, more than 2,000 Sarawak BN Youth and Women members accompanied Yussibnosh to the nomination centre at the Mukah Civic Centre. Also present were state and federal leaders, including Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem and Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang.

Muhyiddin also reminded the BN machinery not to be over confident and complacent but to work hard to campaign for Yussibnosh.

He said every vote for the BN is important so that it could continue to be in power in Balingian.

"To ensure a successful

campaign, the Sarawak Youth and Women have to work as a team and meet all the residents to show that BN is a united party," he said.

In his speech earlier, Adenan said the people of Balingian could use the by-election to show their gratitude and appreciation to Abdul Taib who was also the chief minister then for his many contributions not only to Balingian but Mukah, Samarahan and Sarawak as a whole.

"We should always cultivate the culture of being grateful to people who have helped us a lot," he said.

Adenan also expressed his confidence that after the polling day on March 29, Balingian would once again be represented by the BN.

Yussibnosh, who is affectionately referred as 'Buweh' by village folks, is challenged by PKR's Abdul Jalil Bujang.

The 48-year-old BN candidate is born into a poor family whose livelihood depended on sago cultivation.

A graduate in public administration from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) began his career in the public service when he was appointed administrative officer at the Simunjan District Office in southern Sarawak before being transferred to two other districts in the state and eventually being made a district officer for Dalat in 2008.



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Muhyiddin with Yussibnosh (eighth from right) during the nomination in Mukah. Also present were Shafie (sixth from left), Musa (second from left), Alfred Jabu (left), Fadillah Yusof (third from left) and BN component parties' leaders.